Scheme to help widows

3102. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme or programme to help widows from poor and backward class families who have lost their husbands when they were working abroad as skilled workers;

(b) the details of such help available;

(c) whether it is a fact that petitions from poor widows from Andhra Pradesh are duly received by Government;

(d) whether it is also a fact that such representations are filed or destroyed or ignored;

(e) the steps proposed to act on such representations and make suitable enquiries through State Government; and

(f) the reasons for in-efficient handling of petitions from widows whose husbands died overseas?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (f) There is a scheme titled "Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana" which is applicable to all emigrants who go abroad for work with the approval to the Protectors of Emigrants. Under this scheme, the benefits available in the event of death of such an emigrant are:

(i) The insured person shall be covered for a minimum sum of five lakh rupees in the event of death or permanent disability leading to loss of employment while in employment abroad.

(ii) In the case of death, besides the cost of transporting the body, the cost incurred on economy class return air fare of one attendant shall also be reimbursed by the Insurance Company

(iii) In the event of death or permanent disability due to any accident/ physical injury sustained while in employment abroad, the Insurance Company shall reimburse the sum assured (rupees five lakhs) even after expiry of the insuracne policy provided the accident occurred during currency of the Insurance cover.

(iv) The family of the emigrant worker in India consisting of spouse

and two dependent children up to twenty-one years of age shall be entitled to hospitalization cover in the event of death or permanent disability of the insured person for an amount not exceeding twenty-five thousand rupees per annum.

The scheme was started in 2003. So far, as per available information, insurance claims amounting to Rs. 1,84,53,157.00 have been paid against 366 settled claims.

Further, whenever any case relating to payment of compensation in respect of any emigrant comes to the notice of the Ministry, it takes up the matter immediately with the Indian Embassy/Mission concerned, who is turn takes up the matter with the foreign employer for payment of suitable compensation. During 2006-07, out of the 19 compensation related cases taken up by the Ministry, compensation has been paid in four cases. During 2007, petitions of two widows from Andhra Pradesh have been received, which have been taken up by the Ministry with the Indian Embassy/ Mission concerned for immediate action.

Indians committing suicides in Dubai

†3103. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the number of Indians committing suicides in Dubai is on the rise;

(b) whethery any information has been received from Indian Embassy in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government would collect the required information immediately and placed it before the House?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) As per information received from the Consulate General of India, Dubai, the number of suicides of Indians registered in the Consulate are 69,84 and 109 for the year 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.